

be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 3, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND DRINKING WATER

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water be authorized to conduct a hearing Wednesday, November 3, 10 a.m., hearing room (SD-406), to examine solutions to the policy concerns with respect to habitat conservation plans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, this week marks the fifth anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act, a bill I authored that was signed into law on October 31, 1994. This Act marked a watershed event for California and for the 2.8 million people who visit this pristine national treasure each year. This was the most extensive land-protection bill in U.S. history and protected the largest parcel of land in the continental U.S.

The bill was unique in many ways. It designated national park and Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas comprising more than 7.7 million acres, the highest category of federal protection. It also designated the Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park in areas that formerly fell under less protected "national monument" status and created the 1.6 million acre Mojave National Preserve.

At the time of its passage, the Desert Protection Act was the centerpiece of a long and contentious battle among a variety of different stakeholders. It faced enormous opposition from groups and individuals concerned about private property rights, grazing permits, mining claims, and access for off-road vehicle use. The bill took nearly eight years to pass over objections from miners, property owners, hunters, ranchers and off-road enthusiasts, who thought the legislation would restrict too much land and hurt business. I worked hard to craft a bill that protected private property rights and safeguarded the region's job base while preserving a treasured resource—the California Desert.

I am proud to say that after 5 years there has not been a single instance of a land transaction that did not involve a willing seller and willing buyer. Grazing has not been impeded and valid mining rights have been upheld. The 25 million acres of California desert remain a place of extraordinary beauty and diverse resources. There are soaring sand dunes, ninety mountain ranges, extinct volcanoes, streams, lakes, wildflowers, the world's largest Joshua Tree forest, waterfalls and cactus gardens.

The land also includes over 100,000 archeological sites, including the only-known dinosaur tracks in California, believed to be more than 100 million years old. More than 760 different wildlife species call the rugged California desert home. The protected land has aided in the recovery of the desert tortoise and has provided thousands of acres of needed habitat for big horn sheep.

The Death Valley National Park consists of more than 3.3 million acres of spectacular desert scenery, interesting and rare desert wildlife, complex geology, undisturbed wilderness and dozens of historical and cultural interest sites. It contains the lowest point in the Western hemisphere, the Death Valley badwater, which rests 282 feet below sea level. The Joshua Tree National Park comprises two deserts and vividly illustrates the contrast between high and low desert. Below 3000 feet, the eastern half of the park is the land of the creosote bush, smoke trees and ocotillo. The higher, cooler and slightly wetter Western part is dominated by Joshua Trees.

But the crown jewel of the California Desert is the Mojave National Preserve whose geographical and wildlife diversity are practically unrivaled. The area contains eleven mountain ranges, four dry lakes, cinder cones, badlands, innumerable washes, mesas, buttes, lava tube caves, alluvial fans and one of California's most complex sand dune systems.

I would like to especially thank Mary Martin, the Mojave National Preserve Superintendent for her diligence and the commendable job she has done balancing the diverse needs of the Preserve with those of all the stakeholders who work and/or use the land.

The desert parks have attracted record numbers of tourists in recent years from across the globe. Tourism has increased the visibility of California's natural resources, created jobs for desert residents and brought additional income. In 1997, the three parks created more than 6,000 jobs and over \$22 million in tax revenue from tourist expenditures.

The passage of the California Desert Protection Act has been one of my proudest accomplishments in the Senate. But there is still more work to be done.

To encourage out nation's westward expansion, in 1864 Congress gave the railroad industry every other section of land in a 50 mile swath in what is now the Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. Most of this remaining checkerboard arrangement of land is owned by the Catellus Development Corporation.

Earlier this year David Myers, the Executive Director of the Wildlands Conservancy, brokered a deal with Catellus to sell these lands at well below market value. Through David's hard work, The Wildlands Conservancy raised \$25.5 million in private funding and donated land. The Catellus Corporation agreed to donate an additional \$16.4 million in land.

Through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund the U.S. would acquire 487,000 acres of protected land. This includes 150,000 acres of Congressionally designated Wilderness areas, 87,000 acres in the Mojave National Preserve, 18,700 acres in Joshua Tree, land in Big Morongo, San Gorgonio wilderness, and the Kelso Dunes.

This acquisition would formalize rights-of-way over 165 jeep trails and dirt access roads leading to 3.7 million acres of land used for hunting, hiking, sightseeing, camping and recreational vehicle use.

The land includes the biggest cactus gardens in the world at the Bigelow Cholla Gardens.

The acquisition also includes one hundred miles of scenic lands and historic water stops along historic route 66 and would help to conserve one of the single most intact portions of America's "Mother Road" which provided many Americans their first look at the Golden State and became the source of much of America's western migration folklore.

The purchase is supported by an overwhelming majority of constituents in the 40th Congressional District including Republicans and Democrats alike and a broad coalition of interest groups from the Sierra Club to the National Rifle Association. This transaction would be one of the biggest land acquisitions in California history and one of the most substantial gifts ever to the American people.

It is my hope that we can take advantage of this rare opportunity to purchase these valuable lands and remove any remaining impediments for the millions of hikers, campers, and other recreationists who will continue to visit and enjoy this pristine area in the heart of California.

ASTEROID RESEARCH

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to commend a group of New Mexicans who are achieving some phenomenal results. In fact, they're currently battling .500 and more. If they were baseball players they would be acclaimed on every sports page.

But instead of baseball, this group has discovered half of the comets that are currently visible through telescopes. One of their latest comet discoveries may be bright enough to see with binoculars next year. And it's probably safe to guess that the brightest of comets attracts an audience well in excess of those watching major league baseball.

Instead of baseball bats, they are using a telescope at the north end of White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research project is run by Lincoln Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of technology. A second telescope at the site started operations in the last week—that may boost their discoveries still further.

The project grew out of an Air Force study involving space surveillance. Now space surveillance isn't a new subject, but in this project they're using a new automated system with a highly sensitive electronic camera. It's a great tool for discovering objects that move in the heavens, like comets and asteroids. The performance of their system exceeds any competitor by at least ten times. Today, both the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and NASA provide the funding for this project.

Their asteroid batting average even exceeds their comet batting average. Since the first telescope started operation in March 1998, the project has accounted for about 70 percent of all the near-Earth asteroids that have ever been located. That's especially impressive since astronomers have been searching for such objects for over 60 years.

As they find these asteroids, they also project their future path through the heavens and explore any possibility for an impact with the Earth. In the course of their work, they've found four asteroids that might possibly approach Earth—but so far, careful evaluations of their probable future trajectories have shown that each of these objects should miss us. So, while the dinosaurs may have become extinct after an asteroid impact, so far our coast looks clear.

The project team is headed by Dr. Grant Stokes, a 1977 graduate of Los Alamos High School and a New Mexico native. Dr. Eric Pearce directs the team at White Sands. This team has truly revolutionized the art of finding comets and asteroids. I want to commend Dr. Stokes and Dr. Pearce along with their supporters at the Air Force and NASA. This large group of New Mexicans deserves the title of the world's best comet and asteroid hunting team.●

THE CITY OF BOSTON'S CRUSADE AGAINST CANCER

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend the city of Boston's Crusade Against Cancer and I commend our outstanding Mayor, Thomas M. Menino, for his leadership on this excellent program. Donald Gudaitis, the chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society's New England Division, has called the Crusade Against Cancer, "the most visionary public health initiative ever undertaken in any city around the prevention and early detection of cancer."

Through innovative measures such as giving city employees time off for cancer screenings, Boston's Crusade Against Cancer uses a small public investment to create a large public health payoff. It may well serve as a model for communities throughout the nation.

Boston's program provides essential preventive care to the city's low income and minority communities, who

are hit disproportionately hard by the ravages of cancer. Many members of these communities are neglected by HMOs and private insurers and might otherwise never receive a cancer screening.

Nearly a quarter of the women using the program's mobile mammography van were receiving a mammogram for the very first time. Since early detection is a critical factor in the successful treatment of cancer, these preventive screenings are literally a lifesaver for many Bostonians. Boston's program has gained nationwide attention and was described in a recent article in the *New York Times*. I believe the article will be of great interest to all of us in Congress and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the *New York Times*, Nov. 2, 1999]
BOSTON BATTLES CANCER WITH A CITYWIDE MAILING

(By Carey Goldberg)

BOSTON, NOV. 2—Cities often undertake campaigns to fight crime or litter.

This city is fighting what health officials call its No. 1 killer: cancer.

Over the last few days, every household in Boston, in theory, has been mailed a brochure describing how to prevent cancer and to detect it early if it develops.

The quarter-million English-and-Spanish brochures, Boston's largest public health mailing ever, are the flashiest element of the city's "crusade against cancer," but they are only one of many.

Boston's municipal employees are allowed to take four hours off each year for cancer screening—a rule that city officials say was the only one of its kind until Springfield, Mass., adopted a similar rule last week.

Over the last several months, about 1,600 chemotherapy patients have been given free rides to and from their sessions, thanks to hospitals and taxis participating in the city's crusade.

Other cities and states run anti-cancer programs as does the federal government. But overall, said Donald J. Gudaitis, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society's New England division. "This is the most visionary public health initiative ever undertaken in any city around prevention and early detection of cancer."

Such a campaign may seem logical at a time when the death rate from heart disease has been dropping and cancer, the nation's No. 2 cause of death, kills more than half a million Americans every year.

But Mr. Gudaitis attributed the anticancer campaign in Boston to a particular asset: a personally interested mayor.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino's father died of prostate cancer, and the mayor, who does not normally play up his personal life, said in a telephone interview that he saw his father "go from a big brawny guy to 70 pounds."

"And you ask yourself, why?" Mayor Menino added. "I want to try to help other people out."

In particular, it seems, he wants to help the poor. Boston, like many other cities, has found that cancer death rates are especially high in poor and minority neighborhoods. Patchy health care makes poor people less likely to have checkups for cancer and thus more likely to die from it.

More than a year ago, Mayor Menino convened a panel of medical experts and cancer survivors to help decide what to do. The process, which led to the crusade against

cancer, is continuing, said John Rich, medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission. But the panel established three initial goals: that all Boston households, receive information on cancer prevention, that all Bostonians receive appropriate screenings and that all cancer patients have transportation to and from treatment sessions.

Transportation may seem minor compared with the first two goals but not to chemotherapy patients, said Maureen Sullivan, vice president of the Massachusetts Bay region of the American Cancer Society who is a cancer survivor. It might not be bad getting to chemotherapy sessions, but, Ms. Sullivan added, "Let me tell you, coming home can be really awful, and not only for you but for everyone else on that bus with you."

Boston has introduced other help on wheels, a mobile mammography van that has been booked solid since it began six months ago. Officials say the city is fighting cancer in small ways as well—supplying sunscreen to its outdoor workers, for example—and in bigger ones: Mayor Menino supported a ban on smoking in Boston restaurants, despite heavy opposition from restaurateurs. The program includes television advertising and a new city agency, the Office of Cancer Prevention.

The campaign costs little, Mr. Menino said, perhaps, \$100,000 for the mammography van, about \$250,000 for the brochures and nothing for the transportation and time off.

Asked why Boston is undertaking an anticancer campaign now, when the disease has killed millions for decades, those involved cited two factors: the accumulation of research finding on cancer prevention and widespread disillusionment with the prevention promise offered by health maintenance organizations.

"If we look at the actual synthesis and explosion, if you will, of information on the relationship between life-style factors and cancer in the last 20 years, it really has moved beyond just smoking as a major cause," said Dr. Graham Colditz, director of education at the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention, which is participating in the campaign.

Dr. Colditz said the center had determined that at least 50 percent of cancer cases could be prevented through behavioral changes alone. The screenings could also prevent deaths among those whose cancer would be detected early, he said.

The brochure advises people to eat a healthy diet, to get at least 30 minutes of physical activity every day, to keep their weight down, to drink less alcohol, to avoid smoking, to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and to protect themselves from the sun.

None of that was news to Mary Caulfield, a 58-year-old retired resident of the Dorchester section of Boston. But, Ms. Caulfield said, "I think a lot of newcomers, foreigners, probably don't understand even things like immunizations."

The Boston anticancer program is impressive, Sandra Mullin, spokeswoman for the New York City Department of Health, said upon hearing it described. New York does not give municipal employees time off for screenings, Ms. Mullin said, though it periodically includes reminders of the need for screenings in employees' paychecks, and it has a program to encourage exercise at lunch.

While New York has done no blanket mailing and is not as involved in cancer screening, it does provide cancer information through mobile health vans, Ms. Mullin said. The city focuses some of its other anticancer efforts on antismoking programs and on making sure that managed care plans screen Medicaid patients for cancer.